

the 36th State of the Union. Nevada is only one of two States to join the Union during the war. The first was West Virginia, which seceded from Virginia to form a new State and remain part of the Union. It gained its statehood before Nevada, on June 30, 1863.

Union sympathizers had rushed to finalize Nevada's statehood in order to ensure Lincoln's reelection—because, remember, this is right before his reelection. In fact, they were so eager to mint a State they telegraphed the new Nevada constitution to Congress. At that time, it was the longest telegram ever sent—coming in at 16,543 words and costing \$59,294.92. Eight days later, President Lincoln was reelected President of the United States.

Nevada is only one of two States to significantly expand its borders after its admission to the Union. Eastern and southern Nevada joined the State in the late 1860s after gold was discovered in the regions. Many Nevadans believe the State was only allowed to join the Union so its mineral riches could help fund the northern war effort, but in truth that is a myth. It is not true. The tale probably stems from the fact that the Nevada Territory was created in 1861 so its gold and silver could be used to help the Union rather than the Confederacy. So the State's slogan, *Battle Born*—a reference to the war—and an erroneous episode of "Bonanza," which depicted a constitutional convention in Carson City I guess helped cement the legend.

The 150th anniversary of our admission to the Union is a wonderful time to study and reflect in this shared history we have as States and as a nation. It is also time to build a foundation for another 150 years of innovation and accomplishment for our State.

Nevada—from the mountains and high deserts of the east, to the geothermal wells of the north, including Lake Tahoe to the west, of course, to southern Nevada with the Las Vegas strip, from Indian Country to the mining towns and ranching communities—is a unique State in today's modern Union.

I like to say that people don't understand Nevada is more than the bright lights of Las Vegas. From the glittering waters of Lake Tahoe, Nevada is the most mountainous State in the Union, except for Alaska. We have more than 300 mountain ranges. Other than Alaska, it is the most dangerous place to fly a private plane because of the weather patterns which develop so quickly. I have been involved as I have flown in some of the smaller airplanes around the State.

We have magnificent wildlife. We have the famous bighorn sheep, we have mountain goats, the largest antelope range in the world. We have 1 mountain almost 14,000 feet high, and we have 32 mountains over 11,000 feet high. It is a magnificent State, and I am so fortunate to be able to represent that State—the State where I was born.

So today and throughout this special year we should celebrate everything that makes Nevada extraordinary and successful.

Happy Nevada Day, Nevadans.

CONGRATULATING CARL FRITTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to congratulate a man who has been part of the Senate for a long time. With more than four decades of service to the Federal Government and some 32 years here in the Senate, a man by the name of Carl Fritter will retire today. He began his career at the Government Printing Office and gave 44 years of service to the Federal Government. He is respected by his colleagues in the Secretary's Office and admired throughout the Senate community for his craftsmanship. Carl learned the art of bookbinding as an apprentice in the Government Printing Office. He received special training in bookbinding from experts across the globe.

In 1977, Carl was detailed to the Senate Library, where he eventually became Director of the Office of Conservation and Preservation. My son, during one of the summers, worked in that office, and that was a great experience. There he got to know Carl.

In addition to binding and repairing books, he has built many beautiful boxes and other things. He is a modern-day artisan. It is amazing the things he has built and can build. He has built, for example, boxes to contain gavels, books, and other works of art. Later today when we swear in the new junior Senator from New Jersey, the oath book Vice President BIDEN will use to swear in Senator-elect BOOKER was made by Carl Fritter.

I wish him the very best in his retirement. He is going to go to Key West, FL, where he wants to spend more time there with his wife Bunny and his children and grandchildren. I thank Carl for his decades of dedicated service to this institution and the Federal Government, and congratulate him on a career of success building and preserving artifacts here in the U.S. Capitol.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO CARL FRITTER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words of thanks this morning to a member of the Senate family who is leaving us today. After 44 years of government service, including 32 here in the Senate, Carl Fritter has decided it is time to go.

Carl has been a real friend to my office over the years, through his work in the Office of Conservation and Preser-

vation, and we are sorry to see him leave us. But before he does, I want to say how grateful we are for his outstanding work over the years.

Carl learned the art of bookbinding in an apprentice program at the Government Printing Office many years ago. He says he never saw himself as a bookbinder, but after working outside one January during the construction of the Kennedy Center, he started thinking about getting a job indoors, and his supervisors over at the GPO gave him the opportunity. Carl would learn his trade from bookbinders from all over the world, each of whom taught him different techniques, which he put to good use in the Senate Library for many years.

In 1990, the Office of Conservation and Preservation was created. Carl was named Director 4 years later.

In addition to binding and repairing books, Carl taught himself a lot of other crafts. I am told he makes some pretty amazing decorative boxes, bowls, gavels, and books. One of Carl's most memorable projects was a fall-down box that he built as a gift for Margaret Thatcher. It was a box that opened to reveal a plate in the middle, with two congressional resolutions on either side. I am sure Prime Minister Thatcher loved it.

Carl, thank you for lending us your talents for so long and for giving so much of your life to this institution. We wish you and Bunny all the best in your retirement. I am sure you will enjoy passing down your skills to your grandkids. They will have a great teacher. But the entire Senate community will miss your craftsmanship and your commitment to excellence, and we will miss your friendship.

Carl, thank you very much.

FAMILY FRIENDLY AND WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, given that October is National Work and Family Month, I wish to take the opportunity to discuss an issue that has become increasingly important to working families, and that is the need for workplace flexibility.

Yesterday my colleague Senator AYOTTE and I introduced the Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act of 2013, which we hope will provide America's workers with the flexible work arrangements they need. Countless Americans have become increasingly familiar over the past several years with the same reality: more and more to do, with less and less time to do it. And while Congress can't legislate another hour in the day, we can help working Americans better balance the demands of work and family.

The Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act is a commonsense measure Congress can pass to help alleviate that burden for millions of families by providing greater flexibility in managing their time. We all know working moms who are stretched between a job and supporting their kids,